

Message Text

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42

ACTION ORM-02

INFO OCT-01 AF-06 ISO-00 DHA-02 IO-10 AID-05 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 /033 W

----- 088164

R 181145Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO USMISSION GENEVA

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 7414

AMEMXASSY LUSAKA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: SREF, UNHCR BC

SUBJECT: VISIT OF UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE

REF: GENEVA 9216

1. UNHCR REP JACK LANDAU CALLED ON CHARGE DECEMBER 16 LANDAU, WHO HAD SERVED HERE PREVIOUSLY AS RESIDENT REPRESENTATIVE, SAID THAT HE FOUND THINGS TO BE MUCH THE SAME AS WHEN HE WAS HERE, E.G. THE GOVERNMENT OF BOTSWANA CONTINUES TO PROVIDE CLOSE AND USEFUL COOPERATION WITH UNHCR AND TO PERFORM ITS DUTIES AS A HOST COUNTRY TO REFUGEES IN AN EXEMPLARY MANNER.

2. HE NOTED THAT ONLY BOTSWANA REQUEST FOR AID HAD COME EARLIER THIS YEAR FOR 75 THOUSAND DOLLARS TO CONSTRUCT BUILDING AT REFUGEE CAMP NEAR FRANCISTOWN.

3. RECENT BOTSWANA ESTIMATE OF RHODESIAN REFUGEES IS APPROXIMATELY 500, DOWN SOMEWHAT FROM FIGURE OF OVER 600 IN AUGUST. BOTSWANA APPARENTLY CONTINUES PUBLICLY STATED PRACTICE OF FUNNELING REFUGEES THROUGH BOTSWANA TO ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA. LANDAU ALSO AGREED TO FIGURE OF BETWEEN 100 AND 130 BASOTHO REFUGEES IN GABORONE AREA MOSTLY KEEPING LOW PROFILE IN INFORMAL AND FAIRLY PERMANENT STATUS. HE AGREED THAT, EXCEPT FOR MIGRATION OF FEW THOUSANT ANGOLANS SEVERAL YEARS AGO,

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THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE INPUT FROM THAT REGION. REFUGEES FROM

NAMIBIA MAY HAVE INCREASED BUT ARE PROBABLY NO MORE THAN
100 DUE TO DIFFICULTIES IN CROSSING KALAHARI.

4. WITH REGARD TO RHODESIAN REFUGEES TRANSITING BOTSWANA
FOR ZAMBIA AND TANZANIA, LANDAU SAID THERE IS SLIGHT SPECULATION
BASED ON PREVIOUS PRECEDENT, THAT ZAMBIA MAY BE TURNING SOME
BACK TO RHODESIAN GOVERNMENT.

THOMSEN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REFUGEE RESETTLEMENT, WELFARE & WHEREABOUTS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 DEC 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975GABORO01748
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750440-0659
From: GABORONE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19751229/aaaaazbh.tel
Line Count: 69
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ORM
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 GENEVA 9216
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 JUN 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 JUN 2003 by GarlanWA>; APPROVED <07 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF UNHCR REPRESENTATIVE
TAGS: SREF, BC, UNHCR, (LANDAU, JACK)
To: GENEVA
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006